

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

THANKSGIVING TRAVEL



Transportation Security Administration officers Janice Hnyda, left, and Shalonda McCall stand next to a table with confiscated goods at a security check point at Newark Liberty International Airport in Newark, N.J., Thursday, Nov. 15, 2007.

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WORLD NEWS

KHMER ROUGE



Kaing Guek Eav, alias Duch, center, former Khmer Rouge prison chief at Tuol Sleng prison, sits inside the court room during a hearing in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2007.

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President Bush pets May, the National Thanksgiving Turkey, as he pardons the bird during a ceremony in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2007. Behind him is Ted Seger of the National Turkey Federation.

Associated Press

President Bush pardons Thanksgiving Turkey

By BEN FELLER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON - The turkey at the White House really draws a crowd. When President Bush stepped into the Rose Garden on Tuesday, he found visitors in every coveted seat, reporters standing three rows deep and staff members craning for just one good glimpse. They came for one of those signature White House moments: Bush saving the life of a huge, white, gobbling bird.

Bush granted his yearly pardon to the national Thanksgiving turkey, named "May," and a backup turkey who went unseen, who goes by "Flower."

The names were chosen in an online poll that drew more than 28,000 votes. It was close; people also liked "Wish and Bone," and "Wing and Prayer."

"They're certainly better than the names the vice president suggested, which was 'lunch' and 'dinner,'" Bush said.

Bush and the bird coexisted peacefully, although the turkey interrupted the president three times with gobbles, much to the delight of the audience.

After the pardon, the president petted the bird gently and then encouraged some young children to gather around him and do the same.

The White House made clear that the national turkey and its alternate were raised under "normal feeding" conditions. The one exception is when the birds were given some extra interaction with people so that they would be ready for their big moment at the White House.

The popular pardon ceremony, now in its 60th year, dates to Harry Truman's days as president.

May and Flower are now headed to Disney World in Orlando, Fla., to be honorary grand marshals at Disney's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

"May they live the rest of their lives in blissful gobbling," Bush said.

The president and first lady Laura Bush, meanwhile, flew off to the presidential retreat in Camp David, Md., for the holiday week. □

Olmert hopes for peace deal in 2008



Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, left, shakes hands with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak following a joint press conference in the Red Sea resort city of Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Tuesday he hopes a peace deal with the Palestinians can be reached in 2008, as he met Egypt's leader to drum up support from reluctant Arab states for an upcoming Mideast peace conference.

Associated Press

By LAURIE COPANS

Associated Press Writer

SHARM EL-SHEIK, Egypt (AP) - Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert flew to Egypt on Tuesday to rally Arab support for next week's U.S.-hosted

Mideast peace conference, telling the leader of the largest Arab country that a peace deal with the Palestinians can be signed within a year. Invitations were issued Tuesday.

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U.S. agrees to new talks with Iran in Iraq

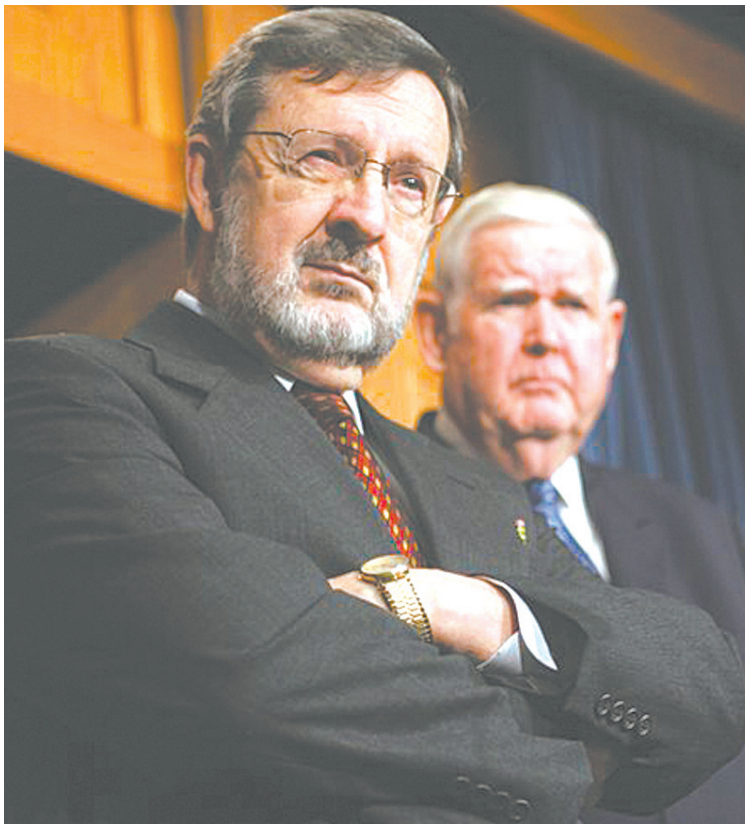
By MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - The United States has accepted an Iraqi proposal to hold new talks with Iran about the security situation in Iraq, the State Department said Tuesday. The as-yet unscheduled meeting would be the third round of talks between Ryan Crocker, the U.S. ambassador in Baghdad, and his Iranian counterpart. Two previous sessions ended inconclusively with Iran rejecting U.S. allegations that Iran is supporting Shiite insurgent groups in Iraq by providing bomb-making material responsible for the deaths of American troops. Amid a decline in attacks involving such devices, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said Washington had responded favorably to a suggestion from the Iraqi government that it was now "the appropriate time" for another meeting at the ambassadorial level in Baghdad.

Continued on Page 4





Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., right, and Rep. David Obey, D-Wisc., make remarks on the War Funding Bill, that has passed the House of Representatives last week, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2007. Obey, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and Murtha, head of the panel's Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, said they won't support more money for the war this year unless President Bush accepts a timetable for troop withdrawals.

Associated Press

By ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - In their latest tussle with the White House

Democrats say Pentagon using scare tactics on war spending

on the Iraq war, two leading Democrats in the House of Representatives said Tuesday the Pentagon is using scare tactics to try to goad Congress into passing another war spending bill.

Democratic Reps. David Obey and John Murtha said their positions will not change. Obey, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and Murtha, head of that panel's Defense Appropriations subcommittee, said they will not support more money for the war this year unless President George W. Bush accepts a timetable for troop withdrawals.

Last week, the House passed a \$50 billion bill that would keep operations afloat for several more months but sets a goal of bringing most troops home by December 2008. After Bush threatened to veto the measure, Senate Republicans blocked it.

"If the president wants that \$50 billion released, all he has to do is to call the Senate Republican

leader, Mitch McConnell, and ask him to stop blocking it," Obey told reporters.

Obey and Murtha convened the rare recess-week news conference to counter Pentagon reports that the military will have to act drastically next month if it does not get the money soon.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates signed a memo Friday that ordered the Army to begin planning for a series of expected cutbacks, including the layoffs of as many as 100,000 civilian employees and another 100,000 civilian contractors, starting as early as January.

Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell said Gates notified Congress on Tuesday that the Pentagon will shift \$3.7 billion from the Navy and Air Force payroll budgets, plus \$800 million from elsewhere in the Pentagon's base budget, in response to the stalemate with Congress.

Morrell said that \$4.5 billion will be used to provide more money for Army and Marine Corps war operations and to keep afloat the Pentagon office that works on solutions to roadside bombs in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"This is the last such move that Congress will allow us to make," until the budget standoff is ended, he said.

The Democratic House speaker, Nancy Pelosi, said in a statement Tuesday that Democrats always will insist that troops get what they need. "If there is any delay in funding for our men and women in uniform, the responsibility will squarely lie with the president and Senate Republicans, who are blocking the bill," Pelosi said in a statement.

Obey and Murtha said they calculate the military has enough

money to continue operations through March by eating into its \$471 billion annual budget.

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said the military has only limited transfer authority.

"Those who think we have some sort of flexibility here are simply misinformed," Whitman told reporters Tuesday. "We've entered into a very serious period here."

Murtha said the Pentagon was issuing "irresponsible" propaganda.

"They're scaring people," he said. "They're scaring the families of the troops. ... That's the thing that's so despicable."

When asked whether public opinion eventually could turn against Democrats if they hold out too long, Murtha said no, because the Pentagon has destroyed its credibility.

"Go back and look: mission accomplished, al-Qaida connection, weapons of mass destruction," he said. "On and on and on, and you'll believe the Pentagon?" McConnell, the Senate Republican leader, who led the effort to block the legislation in the Senate, indicated Tuesday that he is not budging either.

Troops and their families "deserve to know their loved ones are provided for by the time Congress leaves for Christmas," he said in a statement.

The two Democrats would not speculate what might happen next year, when Congress returns from its holiday break.

"What happens in February is going to be determined by what the president does in February," Obey said. But "there is no need for the House to keep chewing the same cud over and over again." □

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Former aide blames Bush for leak deceit

By MATT APUZZO

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON - Former White House press secretary Scott McClellan blames President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney for efforts to mislead the public about the role of White House aides in leaking the identity of a CIA operative.

In an excerpt from his forthcoming book, McClellan recounts the 2003 news conference in which he told reporters that aides Karl Rove and I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby were "not involved" in the leak involving operative Valerie Plame.

"There was one problem. It was not true," McClellan writes, according to a brief excerpt released Tuesday. "I had unknowingly passed along false information. And five of the highest-ranking officials in the administration were involved in my doing so: Rove, Libby, the vice president, the president's chief of staff and the president himself."

Bush's chief of staff at the time was Andrew Card.

The excerpt, posted on the Web site of publisher PublicAffairs, renews questions about what went on in the West Wing and how much Bush and Cheney knew about the leak. For years,

it was McClellan's job to field — and often duck — those types of questions.

Now that he's spurring them, answers are equally hard to come by.

White House press secretary Dana Perino said it wasn't clear what McClellan meant in the excerpt and she had no immediate comment. McClellan turned down interview requests Tuesday.

Plame maintains the White House quietly outed her to reporters. Plame and her husband, former Ambassador Joseph Wilson, said the leak was retribution for his public criticism of the Iraq war. The accusation dogged the administration and made Plame a cause celebre among many Democrats.

McClellan's book, "What Happened," isn't due out until April, and the excerpt released Monday was merely a teaser. It doesn't get into detail about how Bush and Cheney were involved or reveal what happened behind the scenes.

In the fall of 2003, after authorities began investigating the leak, McClellan told reporters that he'd personally spoken to Rove, who was Bush's top political adviser, and Libby, who was Cheney's chief of staff.

"They're good individuals, they're important members of our White House team, and that's why I spoke with them, so that I could come back to you and say that they were not involved," McClellan said at the time.

Both men, however, were involved. Rove was one of the original sources for the newspaper column that identified Plame. Libby also spoke to reporters about the CIA officer and was convicted of lying about those discussions. He is the only person to be charged in the case. Since that news conference, however, the official White House stance has shifted and it has been difficult to get a clear picture of what happened behind closed doors around the time of the leak.

McClellan's flat denials gave way to a steady drumbeat of "no comment." And Bush's original pledge to fire anyone involved in the leak became a promise to fire anyone who "committed a crime."



In this Friday, May 5, 2006, file photo, White House press secretary Scott McClellan smiles after finishing his last news briefing.

Associated Press

In a CNN interview earlier this year, McClellan made no suggestion that Bush knew either Libby or Rove was involved in the leak. McClellan said his statements to reporters were what he and the president "believed to be true at the time based on assurances that we were both given."

Bush most recently addressed the issue in July after commuting Libby's 30-month prison term. He acknowledged that some in the White House were involved in the leak. Then, after repeatedly declining to discuss the ongoing investigation, he said the case was closed and it was time to move on. □

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THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION



U.S. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack gestures during a news briefing at State Department headquarters Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2007 in Washington. The United States has told dozens of nations and organizations to expect invitations to a U.S.-sponsored conference launching new Mideast peace talks, the State Department said Tuesday.

U.S. - IRAN

Continued from Front Page

"We said 'yes,' that we would

Associated Press

agree to that," he told reporters,

adding that the United States had

informed Iran of its acceptance

through diplomatic channels that normally involve Swiss intermediaries.

"We have communicated to the Iranian government that we are agreeable to that," McCormack said. "We have not yet received back a reply, either directly or via the Iraqis."

"We are open to using this channel as a way of talking directly about important issues concerning security in Iraq. We don't yet have a date, and as soon as I am aware of a date, I'll try to convey that to you," he said.

In the Iranian capital Tehran on Tuesday, the state news agency IRNA reported that Iran also accepted the offer for new continued talks with the United States and that Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki had welcomed the opportunity.

"Iran will give a positive response to this request," Mottaki was quoted as saying by IRNA, adding that the talks will be "in the near future. These talks ... are held within the framework of helping Iraqi stability and security and its people."

Meanwhile, the Iraqi government welcomed the agreement by the

United States and Iran, although it said no date has been set for the meeting.

"The Iraqi government hopes that the new round of talks among the three countries will be fruitful and yield tangible steps that lead to mutual understanding," government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said in a brief statement.

He said the meeting would help the security and stability of Iraq plus reduce tensions in the region.

The developments came against a background of U.S. military reports that violence is down 55 percent in Iraq since a U.S.-Iraqi security operation began several months ago.

Iran has long been accused by Washington of training, arming and financing Shiite extremists inside Iraq to kill American troops. But in recent weeks, U.S. officials have said Tehran appears to have halted the flow of arms across its border into Iraq.

Iran has denied the arms-funneling accusations, insisting that it is doing its best to help stabilize its embattled western neighbor.

Mottaki said Iran's consent for a fourth round of talks followed an official U.S. request Tehran received through the Swiss Embassy in Tehran, which looks after American interests in the absence of U.S. relations with the Islamic republic.

McCormack denied that the United States had proposed the meeting but had responded to Iraq's request through the Swiss. Relations between the United States and Iran were broken after the 1979 Islamic Revolution and takeover by militants of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. The revolution overthrew the pro-U.S. Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and installed a hard-line Islamic government.

Crocker and his Iranian counterpart Hassan Kazemi Qomi have held three rounds of talks in Baghdad since May on Iraq but made little apparent headway.

The first round in May broke a 27-year diplomatic freeze between Iran and the United States. Crocker and Qomi agreed during their July talks to set up a security subcommittee to carry forward talks on restoring stability in Iraq. □

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with pineapple

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Busy travel puts pressure on security screeners

By JANET FRANKSTON LORIN

Associated Press Writer

NEWARK, N.J. - Security screeners at the Newark airport could almost open a department store with all the banned items: nine bottles of wine, three sets of kitchen knives, a replica antique gun, pool cues, golf clubs and baseball bats.

The objects, confiscated from travelers over several recent days, also included martial-arts weapons and a belt with fake bullets. "Every day is a surprise," screener Janice Hnyda said. During the busy Thanksgiving travel period, screeners at the nation's airports are prepared to find the unexpected in passengers' carry-on luggage.

Other bizarre items around the country included: a two-headed snake (Newark); 10 human eyeballs floating in liquid for medical purposes (O'Hare Airport in Chicago); and a collection of hermit crabs carried by a family returning from the Gulf of Mexico (San Antonio).

Lara Uselding, a spokeswoman for the Transportation Security Administration, said airlines can accept some unusual items with advance planning, as long as they are not prohibited by the TSA. That was the case with the snake, which was going through Newark to appear on "Live with Regis and Kelly" with a zoo curator. It was eventually checked.

But other prohibited items must either be placed in checked baggage, given to someone not traveling or left in a car. Some airports offer paid services to mail objects home. Belongings that are voluntarily surrendered become property of the federal government, which discards all food and liquids.

During the holiday travel crunch, screeners are under pressure to move passengers along quickly. And they have learned to anticipate just about anything.

"We get power drills," said Luther Duke, a screener for five years at Newark Liberty International Airport, which expects to handle 547,000 travelers over Thanksgiving. This year, screeners have intercepted more than 185,000 prohibited items at Newark. Of those, 536 were considered deadly or dangerous. Nearly 160,000 were lighters.

Screeners were criticized last week after a government report revealed that investigators had been able to smuggle liquid explosives and detonators past airport security. The covert tests were conducted at 19 airports earlier this year.

Uselding defended the screeners. "Our people are vigilant every day," she said.

Their vigilance will be tested during the holidays, when planes are expected to be 90 percent full.

At Newark, prohibited items are taken to a state surplus center in Pennsylvania, where they are auctioned on eBay. Since the program began in 2004, Pennsylvania has received about \$380,000 from the sales of items taken from 13 airports in five states.

Many passengers forget about the rules in their effort to avoid checking baggage.

"That's the dilemma for short trips or for Thanksgiving, when you want to do what you can to minimize the hassle factor," said Walter Sive of Seattle, who once had to give up a quart of maple syrup from his favorite upstate New York farm when he tried to take it back to the West Coast.

The rules also prohibit canned pumpkin pie filling, honey, or a juicy pie. Snow globes are not permitted and wrapped gifts aren't a good idea, Uselding said.

Sandy Druckman, who will fly with her husband from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to Newark, said she plans to check everything to avoid any problems.

"For Thanksgiving, I'm just taking my book and my purse," said Druckman, 75. "We just want to breeze through and get on the plane." □



Transportation Security Administration officer Renee Duncan, right, looks at an airline passenger's shoe at a security check point at Newark Liberty International Airport in Newark, N.J., Thursday, Nov. 15, 2007. With a Thanksgiving crush of passengers expected at airports around the country this week, federal Transportation Security Administration screeners want to remind holiday travelers about items that are not permitted to be carried on board.

Associated Press

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An United Nations truck is seen after it was hit with rubber bullets during clashes in an Israeli army operation in the Palestinian refugee camp of Al-Farah near the West Bank town of Jenin, Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2007. The Israeli army often carries out raids in West Bank towns and villages searching for wanted militants from the different Palestinian factions.

PEACE 2008

Continued from Front Page

Olmert's statement was the closest he has come to providing a firm timetable for a peace deal, as the Palestinians have demanded. However, Olmert suggested that implementing such a deal won't be possible as long as the violent Islamic Hamas controls the Gaza Strip.

Olmert's one-day trip to Egypt came ahead of a meeting in Cairo Friday of the Arab League, where key Arab governments will decide whether to attend next

Associated Press week's conference in Annapolis, Maryland.

On Tuesday, Israel and the Palestinians received formal invitations to the conference from the U.S. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas received his at his office in Ramallah, Palestinian and American officials said. Olmert's office issued a statement later saying Israel had also been invited to the conference for "discussions about advancing the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians."

The U.S. hopes Annapolis will

launch the first serious round of Israel-Palestinian negotiations in seven years and has been pushing the sides to endorse a joint document laying out their vision for peace ahead of the conference.

But negotiators say they have made little progress, casting a cloud over the summit, which is to begin Monday with a dinner in Washington and continue with talks in Annapolis on Tuesday, according to Palestinian spokesman Nabil Abu Rdeneh.

Arab participation, particularly by governments that do not have relations with Israel, is considered critical for the summit's success. Arab countries have been reluctant to commit, seeking assurances that Israel is serious about addressing the core issues of its conflict with the Palestinians, including conflicting claims to the holy city of Jerusalem and the fate of Palestinian refugees and millions of their descendants.

At a news conference with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Olmert sought to allay Arab concerns, saying that even if the summit does not address core issues, ensuing negotiations will.

"I want the Arab nations to know that the negotiations will tackle all the main issues," Olmert said. "We won't try to avoid any

problem or overlook any issue." "I very much hope we can reach this agreement in the course of 2008," Olmert said, the closest he has come to setting a firm timetable for a deal. In the past, he had said only that he hoped to make serious progress before U.S. President George W. Bush leaves office in January 2009.

He also he would take into account a Saudi-sponsored Arab peace plan — a key concern of Arab states. Israel has reacted cautiously to the plan, which offers full peace in return for a full withdrawal from all lands Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war.

Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni told Israel TV that the process is "one of partition," with Israel giving up territory, while trying to "maintain control of large settlement blocs" in the West Bank.

However, Olmert also signaled that carrying out any peace deal would have to wait until the moderate Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, regains control of the Gaza Strip from Hamas. The militant Islamic group, which is committed to Israel's destruction, violently overran Gaza in June and remains firmly in control there.

Olmert said any peace deal must be based on the U.S.-backed

"road map," which requires the Palestinians to dismantle militant groups.

"There will be no implementation of the (peace) agreement before the road map commitments are fully implemented. These commitments apply to Gaza as well," he said. "The Palestinians take for granted that Gaza is supposed to be part of the Palestinian state. So naturally, if it's part of the Palestinian state that must fight terror, that includes the Gaza Strip."

Olmert's spokeswoman, Miri Eisin, said he was referring to the requirement of the Palestinians to fight terror, beyond stopping daily rocket attacks from Gaza, but she would not elaborate further. In the TV interview, Livni said implementation of agreements with the Palestinians "would be dependent on a war on terrorism."

Abu Rndeneh would not comment on Olmert's statement.

The road map also requires Israel to freeze all construction in West Bank settlements — a step it has refused to take. Some 270,000 Israelis live in West Bank settlements, in addition to 180,000 Israelis in east Jerusalem. The Palestinians seek both areas, which Israel captured in the 1967 war, as part of their future state. □

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Wet, hungry and afraid

Somali mothers mourn their lost children

By KATHARINE HOURELD
Associated Press Writer

AFGOYE, Somalia (AP) - Aid workers are calling it Africa's biggest humanitarian crisis, but no one has to tell Fatima Usman how rapidly things have gone bad in Somalia.

The slender 23-year-old's son Mohamed died of hunger.

So did her daughter Isha.

Cholera claimed Mowlid.

"I am praying to God that he will not take this baby yet," she says, gently cradling the wizened face and prominent ribs of Muhiadeen, her four-month-old son, who is receiving emergency treatment at a clinic run by Medecins Sans Frontieres. "But I do not have enough milk to give him."

In the face of an increasingly brutal insurgency, she left her three toddlers buried in the violence-wracked capital of Mogadishu, and fled about 20 miles east with her surviving children to Afgoye, once a sleepy fruit growing town of 40,000 people. Two hundred thousand people have sought refuge here since June. Half of them have arrived in the past three weeks.

Fighting between Islamic insurgents and the government and its Ethiopian allies has dramatically increased in Mogadishu the last three weeks, following the death and public mutilation of several Ethiopian soldiers by insurgents.

In all, 1 million Somalis have been displaced by the violence, many to Afgoye, the U.N. refugee agency said Tuesday.

In Afgoye, fruit groves have been stripped of their branches as thousands of makeshift huts mushroomed overnight. Lucky families received plastic sheeting from an aid agency to use as a roof against the cold autumn rains. The rest use sodden lengths of fabric strung over twigs, huddling together for warmth in the mud. More are arriving everyday.

Most have stories like Hawo Abdi Baro, who arrived on Sunday pushing her three youngest children in a handcart. After a shell exploded on her house in Mogadishu while the family was sleeping last Friday, the 40-year-old only had time to scoop up her youngest three and run out into the street. In the panic, she lost sight of her oldest four sons, screaming their names above the explosions as she huddled in a doorway.

"I don't know where they are. I don't know if they are alive or dead. Please help me find

them," she cried after a departing journalist. "Their names are Abdi, Abdinasir, Isse and Mohamed."

Like most, the family arrived with no food, no clothes and no shelter. The harvest here is the worst it has been for 13 years. Acute malnutrition rates are nearing 20 percent among children under five, although the latest figures, released on Tuesday, show a slight improvement. That's well above Darfur, which hovers a few points below the emergency threshold of 15 percent. Basic food staples have tripled in price. "If it happened in Darfur, it would be a major outcry. Since it's Somalia, nobody cares," said Eric LaRoche, head of the United Nations' aid efforts in Somalia. The world may simply be tired of responding to trouble in Somalia, which has been in crisis since clan-based warlords toppled dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991 and then turned on each other.

More than a decade ago, a massive U.N. relief operation was launched for thousands of civilians left starving because of fighting. In 1993, Somali clan militiamen shot down two Black Hawk helicopters and killed 18 U.S. servicemen in fighting portrayed in the book and movie "Black Hawk Down."

After that, former U.S. President Bill Clinton ordered the withdrawal of U.S. troops. The U.N. peacekeeping operation in Somalia was scaled back and eventually abandoned in 1995. LaRoche says the situation is now worse than when U.S. troops first intervened. "We have never had as many people displaced ... and needing humanitarian aid," he said.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon opposes deploying U.N. peacekeeping troops to Somalia again, instead suggesting a robust multinational force or a coalition of volunteer nations to help restore security. The U.N. authorized the African Union to send an 8,000-strong peacekeeping force to Somalia in February to calm the country, but only 1,800 troops from Uganda are on the ground. And while some may say Somalia is being ignored in favor of Sudan's Darfur, where movie stars jet in to call for peace and feed the hungry, international pledges to send peacekeepers for Darfur are foundering. For weeks, the EU has struggled to muster the dozen or so helicopters needed for a planned European force to protect Darfur refugees

and others in Chad and Central African Republic. In addition, problems have hit a planned United Nations-African Union force of 26,000 for Darfur itself. The UN-AU force is supposed to take control of Darfur by the end of the year, but a top U.N. official said last week it would not be ready unless Sudan quickly accepted units from outside Africa, and contributing countries offered helicopters and other critical equipment. Aid agencies have had trouble raising funds for Darfur as well as Somalia, and aid workers in both places have been targeted by fighters.

"Somalia has been a forgotten emergency for so many years," LaRoche said. Fewer "people are affected than in Darfur, but the crisis is more severe."

In Somalia, bands of predatory militias roam the country, workers and throwing up kidnapping and killing aid makeshift roadblocks. □



CRISIS Somali women stand in line to receive non food items at a distribution centre, Monday, Nov. 19, 2007 in the Somali town of Afgoye.

Associated Press

militias roam the country, workers and throwing up kidnapping and killing aid makeshift roadblocks. □





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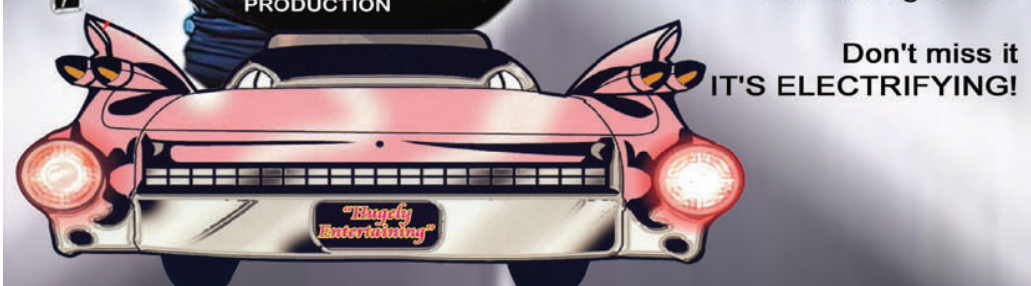
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Khmer Rouge torturer has hearing before genocide tribunal judges

By **KER MUNTHIT**

Associated Press Writer

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)

- The gaunt former schoolteacher who once ran a notorious torture center run by Cambodia's Khmer Rouge made his first public courtroom appearance Tuesday, evoking curiosity and anger as he stood before judges of a U.N.-assisted genocide tribunal.

Kaing Guek Eav - alias Duch - was escorted by guards into a packed chamber for a bail hearing. Charged with committing crimes against humanity, Duch is one of five people held in connection with the communist regime's brutal 1970s rule of Cambodia. Trials are expected to begin next year. Duch, now 66, was the commandant of the Tuol Sleng prison in Phnom Penh, also known as S-21. Thousands of prisoners were tortured there before being executed outside the capital at the site known as "the killing fields."

No Khmer Rouge leaders have been tried nearly three decades after their regime collapsed, and many feared the group's former leaders might die before facing justice. The movement's notorious chief, Pol Pot, died in 1998.

I am interested to see Duch," said Mam Thorn, 53, who had come to the hearing. "He was a prison chief, who had inflicted suffering and killed thousands. ... We have wanted to know whether those who have committed wrongdoing will ever be prosecuted."

Hundreds of people eagerly awaited Duch's morning arrival, most forced by the small size of his hearing room to watch a live video feed in the tribunal's bigger, main courtroom seating 500 people. Two satellite trucks from Cambodian television stations were parked outside to broadcast the proceedings nationwide.

When he came into view, the crowd - many of whom were family members of victims of the 1975-79 regime - fell into a hush.

A presiding judge read aloud from Duch's case file: "Under his authority, countless abuses were committed, including mass murder, arbitrary detention and torture."

As they watched the proceedings - which were to continue Wednesday - onlookers explained their feelings.

"More than three years under their rule were very painful," said 58-year-old Sin Khor, who lost her husband and two brothers - one of them executed - under the Khmer Rouge. "This makes me feel more confident about seeing

justice done."

Oum Pum, 76, said his anger made him want to "punch Duch in the face." "During the Khmer Rouge, they accused me of being CIA and put me in prison for one month before they released me," said Oum Pum, who lost 12 relatives. Graying and frail, Duch took the witness stand dressed in a white polo shirt and stood up when asked to tell the court his name. He then pressed his palms together in a sign of respect for the five-judge panel beside him□

Kaing Guek Eav, alias Duch, center, former Khmer Rouge prison chief at Tuol Sleng prison, sits inside the court room during a hearing in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2007. Cambodia's U.N.-backed genocide tribunal opened its doors Tuesday for the first public court appearance of a Khmer Rouge figure since the regime's brutal reign of terror in the 1970s.

Associated Press



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View on Iran

U.S.-Iran collision course calls for diplomatic brakes

Catherine Jackson, a woman in the audience at last week's Democratic presidential debate in Las Vegas, stepped forward with a question on more than a few Americans' minds these days. She was concerned, she said, that her son, Christopher, who has already served three tours in Iraq, would soon find himself part of "another unnecessary war," this time with Iran.

War with Iran isn't imminent, but Jackson's sense of foreboding is hardly unfounded.

In Tehran, hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad vows to press ahead with Iran's nuclear program, mocks United Nations sanctions and has called for Israel to be destroyed. Iran is backing Middle East terror groups and, according to U.S. military commanders, has been the source of explosive devices used to attack U.S. forces in Iraq.

In Washington, Vice President Cheney declared last month that "we will not allow Iran to have a nuclear weapon," and President Bush raised the specter of World War III if it obtained one. Bush, despite leading the nation into one disastrous war, in Iraq, has never disavowed his policy of pre-empting perceived threats to U.S. interests.

To be sure, it is important to keep the military option on the table. Attempts to stop Tehran's rush to develop nuclear weapons are less effective without it. But if the

nation is to avoid stumbling into yet another divisive conflict, the choice ultimately must rest with Congress. It also must be a last resort.

Iran hawks chafe at that idea. A U.S. attack would take the form of airstrikes, not the prolonged presence of ground troops, they say, and a long debate in Congress would remove the element of surprise. Worse, they argue, congressional meddling could turn U.S. policy into an ineffective farce.

But the experience in Iraq argues that the alternative is even more troubling. Air attacks would no more be the last step than the "shock and awe" bombings of Baghdad were. Iran would undoubtedly retaliate, inviting tit-for-tat escalation into a wider war and putting Americans and U.S. interests in greater danger.

The reason is this. Two distinct sides have emerged in a de facto Cold War in the Middle East. On one side are the United States and an assortment of players, from firm friend Israel to ally-of-convenience Saudi Arabia. On the other are Iran and its growing band of supporters, including Syria, terrorist groups Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in the Gaza Strip, and Shiite sympathizers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Iran is fully capable of using its clients to initiate hostilities that, among other things, could send oil prices soaring to a level that makes \$100-

a-barrel look like a bargain.

There's also the risk that the attacks would fail because Iran has strong air defenses and is thought to have buried and dispersed its nuclear facilities. Captured U.S. pilots would recall the Iran hostage crisis of 1979-80.

Further, attacks would rally Iranians behind the ayatollahs just as opposition to hard-liners might be gaining strength.

All of this makes a strong case for diplomatic options, even if they appear for the moment to be fruitless. The United States has tightened its own financial sanctions. The Europeans and other major countries may follow suit. The U.N. Security Council might impose a third round of mild sanctions, even though Russia and China have so far dragged their feet. New French President Nicolas Sarkozy is pushing for more wide-ranging engagement along with the sanctions, something that Washington has shied away from. It's easy to dismiss this effort. After all, the Europeans have been ineffective in past Iran diplomacy. But for now, it is the best of an imperfect set of options. Ultimately, if diplomacy and sanctions fail, the United States will confront the question of which is worse: A nuclear-armed Iran that would be a regional bully with a terrorist bent, or the consequences of a pre-emptive attack. □

Opposing view

Iranian bomb 'intolerable'

By Joshua Muravchik

Our choice is stark. Accept Iran with an atom bomb or cripple its nuclear program by force. Nothing else will stop Tehran.

States rarely get talked out of instruments of power, especially not fanatic ones. China and Russia will veto sanctions that might really bite, but those would not work anyway. Neither India nor Pakistan abandoned their bombs in response to sanctions. The ouster of Iran's hard-liners might change things, but under President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, extremists seem more firmly entrenched than a decade ago.

The dangers an Iranian bomb would present are intolerable. Iran is the pre-eminent sponsor of terrorism. Iranian weapons are responsible for a large share of U.S. casualties in Iraq. Our forces in Afghanistan have intercepted Iranian arms shipments to the Taliban.

Argentina has indicted Iranian officials for blowing up a Buenos Aires Jewish center. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has said Tehran was behind Hamas' armed takeover of Gaza. Iran provides haven to fugitive leaders of al-Qaeda. The list goes on.

A nuclear attack by terrorists would be almost impossible to deter. Against whom would we threaten retaliation?

Iran also might launch a nuclear missile at Israel, which Ahmadinejad wants "wiped off the map." Israel could strike back, but so what? Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani boasted "the use of an atomic bomb against Israel would totally destroy Israel, while (the same) against the Islamic world would only cause damage." And he's the "moderate" alternative to Ahmadinejad.

Even without initiating an attack on us or an ally, Tehran would use its nuke as an umbrella over its drive to dominate the Middle East and beyond. Like Lenin and Hitler, Ahmadinejad has a grand vision. "Thanks to the blood of the martyrs, a new Islamic revolution ... will soon reach the entire world," he crows. Bolstered by nukes, Iran's aggressive ambitions would not be stopped without a big war.

Only strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities can forestall these terrible scenarios. This would not require a "declaration of war," an antiquated concept that has not been employed since World War II and rarely before. We would send no troops, conquer no land. Rather, we would act in pre-emptive self-defense.

At stake are supreme issues of national safety. The president alone, as Alexander Hamilton said, is positioned to operate with "decision, activity, secrecy, and dispatch." Of course, Congress can block presidential action, but in this case, most members will be satisfied to stand clear and let the president do what must be done.

Joshua Muravchik is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute and a member of the State Department's Advisory Committee on Democracy Promotion. □

America's addiction to sports

By Jonathan Zimmerman

Last week, when a federal grand jury indicted baseball star Barry Bonds for perjury, it confirmed an ugly truth: America's got a big drug problem.

I'm not talking about steroids, Mr. Bonds' alleged performance-enhancer of choice. Instead, I'm talking about athletics themselves. Americans are addicted to competitive sports in ways that are profoundly unhealthy to our schools, our bodies, and ourselves. And until we confront that problem, head-on, steroids will continue to plague us.

Consider this simple fact: Although every shred of evidence shows that adolescents do not learn well before 9 a.m., US high schools start the day at around 7:30 a.m. Why? To make room for afternoon sports practice, of course. And consider that the time allotted to athletic practice — often two or three hours — is much longer than any academic class period.

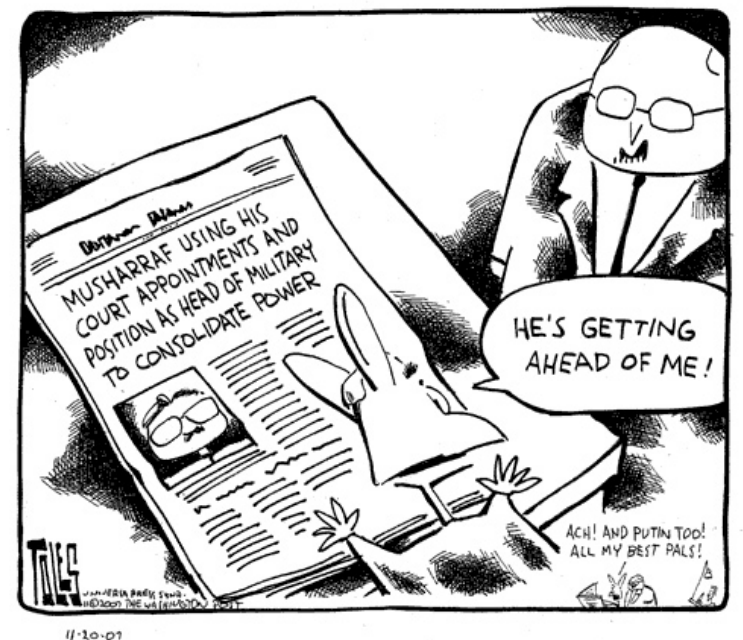
Most high schools allot between two-thirds and three-quarters of their extracurricular budgets to sports. In his bestselling book, "Friday Night Lights," since adapted into a movie and television series, H.G. Bissinger reported that a Texas high school spent more on football game film than it did on teaching materials for the English department. The team's coach earned 50 percent more than a regular classroom teacher with 20 years experience.

In the great college-admissions sweepstakes, recruited high school athletes get twice the advantage that racial minorities receive. But while many Americans squeal about affirmative action for blacks or Hispanics, nobody blinks an eye at special passes for the quarterback or power forward.

Ah, you might say, but these athletes are overwhelmingly minorities themselves. False. As every single study has shown, the vast majority of recruited athletes are white teens from well-to-do families. And these families use their privilege to buy services — coaches, trainers, and summer camps — to ensure that they get a leg up. So much for the level playing field.

But sports help our kids stay fit and healthy, right? Sure. But competitive athletics can harm young bodies, too. Think of girls' gymnastics, which has witnessed a spate of eating disorders. In 1976, America's Olympic gymnasts averaged 106 pounds each; by 1992, their average weight was down to 83 pounds. And if you think that's all because of healthy dieting, well, I've got an amphetamine pill to sell you.

The most dangerous sport is football, of course. During the past decade, at least 50 high school or junior-high-school players have been killed or have sustained serious head injuries on the field. Some of these deaths could have been prevented if we took the risk more seriously.



Sony BMG, Yahoo ink online video deal

Sony BMG Music Entertainment has inked a licensing deal with Yahoo Inc. that clears the way for people to upload files with music or video content by the record company's artists to Yahoo, the companies said Tuesday.

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed. Like similar deals, the agreement calls for Sony BMG to receive a cut of advertising revenue, Yahoo said. The deal also covers the distribution of music videos via Yahoo player applications and widgets that computer users can place on other Web sites.

The agreement marks the first time Sunnyvale-based Yahoo has reached a deal with a major recording company over licensing content in user-created videos.

Sony BMG, home to recording artists such as Britney Spears, Bruce Springsteen and Slayer, reached a similar licensing deal with Google Inc. last year. That agreement also includes Google subsidiary YouTube.

Sony BMG is a joint venture of Sony Corp. and Bertelsmann AG.

The Sony BMG-Yahoo deal reflects the popularity of computer user-created videos, which often include copyrighted content.

Last month, a coalition of major media and Internet companies issued a set of guidelines requiring Web portals that host user-generated videos — as Yahoo does — to use filtering technology to block clips with unauthorized content from being posted.

Independently, Yahoo is deploying video identification and filtering technology early next year, the company said. □



A dollar printing plate at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington. The dollar plunged to another historic low point against the euro Tuesday, as the greenback was plagued by concerns over the US economy amid a global credit squeeze, dealers said.

(AFP/File/Shawn Thew)

Euro hits 1.48 dollars for first time

The European single currency hit a record high 1.4806 dollars in trading here on Tuesday.

The euro surged to the new historic pinnacle after more bad news from the banking sector hit investor confidence in the US economy, traders said. □

Saks expects strong growth in online business



The Saks Fifth Avenue flagship store and headquarters on Fifth Avenue in New York is pictured July 6, 1998.

(Mike Segar/Reuters)

Upscale retailer Saks Inc said on Tuesday that it expects strong growth in its Saks Direct online business in the fourth quarter following a redesign of its site.

"We expect to have a record-breaking fourth quarter in the Direct business and to continue to drive out-sized growth in 2008 and beyond," Saks Chairman Steve Sadove said during a conference call. He added that consumers are shopping the Saks site more frequently and buying more products after an upgrade that added new merchandise. The direct business had sales growth of about 40 percent in the third quarter. □



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Amazon sells own gadget to boost e-books



The Kindle device is shown in this photograph released by Amazon.com on Monday, Nov. 19, 2007. The \$399 electronic book device will allow downloads of more than 90,000 book titles, blogs, magazines and newspapers.

(AP Photo/Amazon.com)

By ANICK JESDANUN
AP Internet Writer

Amazon.com Inc. is hoping to invigorate a nascent market for electronic books by introducing its own e-book reader with free wireless connectivity.

Monday's long-anticipated announcement comes as e-books remain a sliver of overall book sales, partly because they lack the comfort and intimacy of bound paper.

Amazon Chief Executive Jeff Bezos said the online retailer

spent three years developing the Kindle reader, which the company is selling online for \$399.

Rather than try to "outbook" the bound book, Bezos said, Amazon designed Kindle with the e-book's strengths in mind.

It is thinner than most paperbacks and weighs 10.3 ounces. Yet it can hold some 200 books, along with newspapers, magazines and an entire dictionary.

Readers can buy and download books directly to the Kindle — without a PC — through Sprint Nextel Corp.'s high-speed EV-DO cellular network without fees or contract commitments. They also can take notes on what they read and store them on Amazon's servers.

Kindle users can turn off wireless connectivity when they are on airplanes — though they also must shut off the device during takeoff and landing, prime reading time for some.

Sony Corp. already offers an e-book reader that imitates the look of paper by using an innovative screen technology.

The Kindle screen takes a similar approach and has no backlight to reduce battery use and eyestrain. Bezos said Amazon decided to make its own device so it could seamlessly build a service around it.

Best sellers and new releases will typically go for \$9.99. □

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Brain differences detected in migraine sufferers



A child looks at an oversized model of the brain in this undated file photo. People who get migraines have structural differences in their brains notably in the cortex area that processes pain and other sensory information from the body, scientists said on Monday.

(Claro Cortes/Reuters)

By Will Dunham

People who get migraines have structural differences in their brains notably in the cortex area that processes pain and other sensory information from the body, scientists said on Monday. The researchers, whose findings were published in the journal

Neurology, said it is unclear whether these brain differences actually cause migraines or are themselves caused by these severe, recurrent headaches.

The researchers performed brain scans on 24 people who had a long history of frequent migraines -- about four per month for 20 years

-- and 12 people who did not get migraines.

The somatosensory cortex -- the area of the brain that detects sensations like pain, touch and temperature in various parts of the body -- was 21 percent thicker in the people who got migraines compared to those who did not.

The biggest difference was in the part of the cortex responsible for processing sensory information from the head and face, Dr. Nouchine Hadjikhani of Massachusetts General Hospital, who led the study, said in a telephone interview.

Hadjikhani said the study illustrated the seriousness of the migraine. "It has to be taken seriously because it can induce changes in your brain," she said.

Migraines are a type of painful headache commonly accompanied by nausea, vomiting and heightened sensitivity to light and sound. Women are three times more likely than men

to experience these headaches. Many people who get them have a family history of migraines.

"The more we understand about the pathophysiology of migraine, the better we will be able to design drugs that work. At the moment, there is no drug for prevention that works well," Hadjikhani said.

Dr. David Dodick, a professor of neurology at the Mayo Clinic who was not involved in the study, said the study shows that migraines are a brain disorder. "And it shows that migraine has some durable, long-lasting morphological or structural changes in the brain over time," Dodick said.

Dodick said he would be interested to know whether people who get migraines less frequently have the same brain changes.

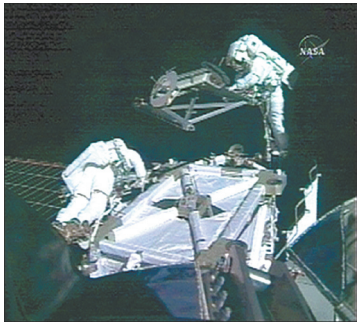
Hadjikhani said one possibility is that repeated, long-term overstimulation of sensory fields in the cortex may cause

it to become thicker over time. Another possibility is that people predisposed to migraines already have this thicker cortex, Hadjikhani said.

According to the U.S. National Institutes of Health, researchers suspect migraines are caused by inherited abnormalities in genes that control certain cells in the brain. For many years, scientists had thought migraines were linked to the dilation and constriction of blood vessels in the head.

Dr. Seymour Diamond, executive chairman of the National Headache Foundation and head of the Diamond Headache Clinic in Chicago, said in an interview the findings further confirm that migraines are a neurological disease. Researchers have seen differences in cortex thickness in other diseases as well. It is thinner, for example, in people with multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease and autism. □

ISS astronauts on spacewalk to hook up Harmony



Two astronauts work on the International Space Station in this August 2007 handout from NASA. Astronauts Peggy Whitson and Dan Tani ventured outside the International Space Station early Tuesday to begin hooking up the key power and fluid links for its newest compartment, NASA said.

(AFP/NASA-HO/File)

Astronauts Peggy Whitson and Dan Tani ventured outside the International Space Station early Tuesday to begin hooking up the key power and fluid links for its newest compartment, NASA said.

The walk advanced the installation of the new Harmony living and work space module that was delivered to the ISS during the last shuttle mission in late October.

The spacewalk, planned to take nearly seven hours, began at 1010 GMT with ISS commander Whitson and flight engineer

Tani moving out from an airlock to begin setting up equipment needed in the walk, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration reported on its website.

The key task was to transfer a 135 kilogram (300 pound) fluid tray to the Harmony module from its current temporary storage space on the ISS's main truss.

Another task was to retrieve a bag of tools left outside the ISS during a November 9 spacewalk.

The Harmony module is being readied for the delivery of two more laboratory modules in the next months: the European Columbus lab due to be delivered on the next space shuttle flight taking off on December 6, and Japan's Kibo lab, to be sent up from Earth in two parts in February and April.

Harmony will serve as the passageway to the two laboratories, and has connecting ports for other attachments.

On November 14 ISS astronauts undertook a spacewalk to relocate the Harmony module from a temporary location to its permanent place on the front of the Destiny laboratory.

NASA plans another spacewalk for Whitson and Tani on November 24, to finish Harmony's exterior hookup. □

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and Pineapple
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Las Ramblas

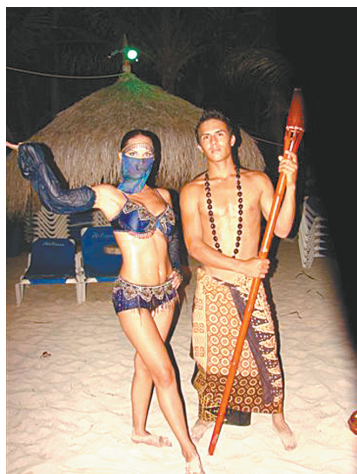
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Las Ramblas
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Showcasing Pangea



PALM BEACH - The Radisson Aruba Resort & Casino entertained top meeting planners last weekend.

Page B7

Occidental Grand Aruba Entertains Travel Professionals



PALM BEACH - A group of meeting planners, travel agents and aviation executives from Colombia, South America, visited Aruba this week.

Page B8

Quota celebrates 'A Night in New York'

Page B9



Marriott's Aruba Surf Club opens Spyglass Tower with staff and guests

John and Annette Ferranti cut ribbon during opening ceremony

PALM BEACH - On Friday November 16 Marriott's Aruba Surf Club celebrated the official opening of the last two buildings of the complex, named Spyglass Tower.

Page B4



At Larimar Spa

Happy First Birthday

PALM BEACH - Larimar Spa, Radisson Aruba Resort & Casino, celebrated its first birthday last night with an unusual event. Director Bruce Cavan invited his staff of terrific therapists to hang out in bathrobes and slippers in the bamboo relaxation area also serving a bit of bubbly in honor of the occasion.

Larimar Spa, an investment of over 5 million dollars raised the bar on spa treatments on the island. It opened 12 months ago and is now enjoying a steady following of locals and tourists.

Larimar also specializes in bridal parties offering everything from hair to make-up, in addition to body treatments. The spa recently introduced a Happy Hour with reduced rates during lull periods, which are no longer quiet due to the increased serenity-seekers flocking to the gate.

Continued on Page B5



John and Annette Ferranti cutting the ribbon during the official opening ceremony of the Spyglass Tower on December 16th.

Tonight AAA opens the renovated airport shopping mall with a Bang!

REINA BEATRIX AIRPORT - Tonight the Aruba Airport Authority, familiarly known as Triple A, officially opens the Airport Shopping Mall.

AAA wants to congratulate all the people involved beforehand and to thank them for their cooperation in improving the looks and services of Aruba's national airport.

The event tonight promises to be a fantastic party in line with the ambitious and positive development of the airport.

Special thanks go out to the following companies and its representatives.

Contractors - Hoevertsz Archidesign, Aruba Services Partners, Robertson Fire Protection N.V. and G&S Holdings & Contractors N.V.

Airlines & Groundhandler - American Airlines, American Airlines Cargo, ASERCA Airlines, Continental Airlines Inc., Avianca, Dutch Antilles Express (DAE), Delta Airlines, JetBlue, Insel Air, Royal Dutch Airlines KLM, US Airways, Inc., Santa Barbara Airlines, Tiara Air, United Airlines, Avior, General Air Servies N.V., Spirit Airlines General Air Services N.V., AGS, Aviation Ground Services N.V. dba SATA, Oduber Aviation.

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Blossom Baskets & Keedo



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11. Sunny Day & Sunny Day 10. Crown 14. Baby Stars Lilly Top & Short Band 15. 12. Whole T & Sailing Pants & Bays Peak (yoga shirt) 13. Whole T & Sailing Pants 14. Sailing Club & Print Pants (Coral Reef Story) 15. Nautical Long Sleeve T & Sailing 16. Sea Gull T & 4 Pocket Pants 17. Stripe Long Sleeve T Funky Pants 18. Whole T & Funky Pants

BLOSSOM BASKETS

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Tonight at Aruba Destiny Restaurant

Coconut Grouper and free Aruba Arriba!

Located next to the Dutch Windmill



PALM BEACH- An Aruban family recipe is what created the Aruba Destiny Restaurant. Generations of passed down recipes has created a wonderful menu served at the Destiny, where owners Erna and Rolando invite you to a special feast every night. These authentic Arubans have realized that a restaurant is the business venture for them. Since the mom, Erna, loves to cook and entertain guests, it was obvious that a restaurant was the next step. "All the businesses that my wife has started have turned to gold!" says hubby Rolando. He especially loves the Coconut

Grouper that is served here, while son Orlando loves the authentic seafood paella. He likes the paella so much he made incredible sangria made with either red or white wine to go with the paella, or any other dish for that matter. Delicious fruits soaked in brandy drift on top of a glass of the tasty sangria. "Not just sangria" he comments, "but Viva Sangria!" Using only the best ingredients and tropical fruits, this is the best sangria on the island. Tonight the family invites everyone for a special meal they will never forget! King Crab, fresh Caribbean lobster, juicy 14.oz USDA sirloin steaks and fresh Caribbean shrimp excite guests and are island favorites. Original paintings by local Aruban artists hang in the dining room while candle-lit tables set the mood for a special dining experience. The menu is exceptional and diverse, if you wish to enjoy



this special menu but can't make it for tonight, then just give them a call and they'll help you with reservations. Tonight's special is Coconut Grouper and a free Aruba Arriba cocktail for only \$19.95 For more information or reservations please call 586-1100 or 568-6493. Erna and her family at Destiny invite you tonight to be their special guests. Destiny is open Monday through Saturday from 5:30pm to 10:30pm and closed on Sundays for some siesta.



Tour Operators from Ecuador inspect Aruba



ORANJESTAD – The Aruba Tourism Authority recently invited a select group of Ecuador to come and inspect Aruba as a vacation destination. The Aruba Tourism Authority has been active in marketing Aruba in Ecuador for the past two years now.

In the past different representatives of the Ecuador Tourist Board have visited Aruba and this time the group consisted of tour operators. Ricardo Croes from the Aruba Tourism Authority was in charge of the calendar of the operators with the help of the De Palm Tours providing one of their



busses for a tour around Aruba. Different hotels were visited for inspection as well as a variety of landmarks. The pictures show the operators from Ecuador together with Ricardo Croes as well as at the Alto Vista Chapel for a symbolic ceremony. □



NEW RELEASES

THE CINEMAS



THE CINEMAS AT RENAISSANCE

BEOWULF (PG-13)		
daily: 4:55 7:20 9:50		
matinee: 12:10 2:30		late-show: 12:15
FRED CLAUS (PG)		
daily: 4:50 7:10 9:30		
matinee: 12:15 2:30		late-show: 11:50
BEE MOVIE (PG)		
daily: 4:05		matinee: 12:00 2:00
SAW IV (R)		
daily: 6:10 8:10 10:10		late-show: 12:10
ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE (PG-13)		
daily: 5:05 7:30 9:55		
matinee: 12:20 2:40		late-show: 12:20
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R)		
wed & thu: 4:00 7:00 10:00		
fri-sat & sun: 5:50 8:50		
matinee: 11:50 2:50		late-show: 11:50
HITMAN (R)		
daily: 4:10 6:15 8:20 10:25		
matinee: 12:05 2:10		late-show: 12:30

THE CINEMAS AT PASEO

DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG-13)		
daily: 4:15 6:20 8:30 10:30		
matinee: 12:05 2:05		late-show: 12:40
BEE MOVIE (PG)		
daily: 4:00		matinee: 11:50 2:00
SAW IV (R)		
daily: 6:10 8:05 10:05		late-show: 12:05
FRED CLAUS (PG)		
daily: 5:10 7:30 9:50		
matinee: 12:20 2:45		late-show: 12:00
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R)		
wed & thu: 4:10 7:10 10:10		
fri & sat: 6:10 9:20		
matinee: 12:00 3:05		late-show: 12:15
HITMAN (R)		
daily: 4:00 6:10 8:10 10:20		
matinee: 11:55 2:00		late-show: 12:20
BEOWULF (PG-13)		
daily: 4:50 7:20 9:40		
matinee: 12:00 2:30		late-show: 12:10
Matinee: Sat & Sun / Late-show: Fri & Sat		

DRIVE IN THEATRE

THE COMEBACKS (PG-13)	
Wednesday: 8:00	WEDNESDAY CAR-CRASH

Matinee: Sat & Sun / Late-show: Fri & Sat

Showcasing Pangea



PALM BEACH - The Radisson Aruba Resort & Casino entertained top meeting planners last weekend. All meeting planners were from important Incentives Houses in the USA and everyone invited had the potential to book groups into the resort. Since the incentive customers

all prefer warm weather destinations, the dignitaries were here to sample group inclusive options, great service, spa and golf. They also enjoyed an action-packed last day on the island which included breakfast at the hotel's Mira Solo martini bar overlooking the beach,



followed by a short briefing by De Palm Tours and a Jeep Safari Tour, fondly known as Shake & Bake.

Dust covered and giddy from the sites and sounds, the caravan stopped for lunch at



Tierra Del Sol's Ventanas del Mar restaurant.

Some participants stayed for a short 9-hole golf game but most retired to the oceanfront Larimar Spa, back at the resort.

In the evening for their farewell party on the beach De Palm Tour created an impressive Pangea lounge, with pan-universal décor mixing a life size state of Buddha, Persian carpets, candelabras, special light effects, an Indonesian dragon, Balinese statuesque and an authentic belly dancer which emerged from the dark sea, just before the delicious dessert – Caribbean canolli – was served.

The belly dancer enchanted the meeting planners with her pelvic rotations and gyrations.

She was escorted by a good-looking torch bearer leading her way up the beach.

Local well-known decorator Fernando Mansur, helped conceived the unforgettable evening complemented by the first class cuisine of the Radisson Aruba Resort & Casino culinary team featuring the James Beard house Caribbean menu.

After dinner the Kukoo Kunuku, rated # 1 by "E" Entertainment TV as favorite tour in Aruba, picked up the dignitaries for a bar-hopping adventure.

They danced all night we hear, riding the wacky, wonderful, one-of-a-kind paranda bus, hand painted and cooled by the Caribbean trade winds and absolute FUN on wheels . . .



Occidental Grand Aruba Entertains Travel Professionals



PALM BEACH—A group of meeting planners, travel agents and aviation executives from Colombia, South America, visited Aruba this week and was invited to tour the Occidental Grand Aruba. The VIPs were met at the resort by the recently-



arrived General Manager Jesus Cardoso, and by Rooms Division Manager Pedro Vargas and Director of Sales Mylene Marquez.

After a short tour of the property the group was invited for lunch at Zen, the resort's specialty restaurant enjoying the culinary firecrackers of Chef Bernardo Fantoli and his kitchen brigade.

The fun trip to Aruba was organized by Avianca Airline as an incentive to top producers and was hosted by the Aruba Tourism Authority.

The group was escorted on the island by ATA's Jerusha Rasmijn.

The Occidental Grand Aruba tour of the property impressed the dignitaries with the resort's spacious, tastefully decorated rooms, the great variety of dining and entertainment options as well as gourmet restaurants, and in general the upscale look and feel of the facility including its meeting rooms.



At the conclusion of the resort tour Zen served an outstanding lunch starting with Sushi platters, followed by four different beef, chicken and shrimp main courses, accompanied by nicely chilled wine and the enchanting jazz fusion melodies of maestro Carlos Bislip. □



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To raise funds for charity

Quota celebrates 'A Night in New York'



ORANJESTAD – Last Saturday the annual gala event of the Quota International of Aruba was celebrated at the Renaissance Conference Center in town.

The theme of the party this year was 'A night in New York' highlighted by a live Statue of

Liberty.

During the completely sold out event raffles were held with prizes that included trips to New York.

The live music was performed by local favorites Tsunami. □



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Singing The Holiday Blues

By: Dr Carlos Viana

Oh, oh, another holiday is fast approaching. The holidays are supposed to be a joyful time of merriment and optimistic hopes. Yet, it is not unusual for many of us to feel sad or lonely during the holiday period -- a condition that has come to be called Holiday Blues. Holiday depression may occur at any holiday or vacation time, but most commonly happens during the November and December holidays when, it may seem, just about everyone in the world is celebrating in some way.

I remind myself, that while they may be intense and upsetting, holiday blues are usually short-lived, lasting for a few days to a few weeks prior to or just after the holiday. The good news is holiday blues usually subside after the holiday season is over and daily routines are resumed. Right after I figure out what to do with all the ties I got.

The causes of holiday blues could be from one or more of the following reasons: increased stress, fatigue, unrealistic expectations, inability to be with family, memories of past holiday celebrations, over commercialization, change in diet, or daily routines. The holiday season has a way of forcing us to examine our support system (i.e., family, friends). The season is known to magnify a sense of loneliness for those independent types who generally get by during the year with

a few friends and family members. New Years Eve, for instance, seems to announce one as a couple (or not) almost as cruelly as Valentines Day! Recent relationship break-ups or the death of a loved one are frequently re-grieved during this time. The symptoms of the Holiday Blues may mimic clinical depression and may include: headaches, inability to sleep or sleeping too much, changes in appetite causing weight loss or gain, agitation and anxiety, excessive or inappropriate feelings of guilt, diminished ability to think clearly or concentrate, and, finally, decreased interest in activities that usually bring pleasure, such as: food, sex, work, friends, hobbies, or entertainment. You are right, long list. Remember, it's a normal response to a stress-filled time of the year. Find someone to talk with, a family member, friend, member of the clergy, or a natural physician. If depression becomes prolonged or debilitating, see a professional. A medical check-up might also be in order, as some medical problems may have similar symptoms.

So, how do we keep ourselves from getting into a holiday funk? Drinking too much alcohol is the largest hazard. Do not feel obligated to eat holiday foods, especially those that are high in sugar and fat. Be realistic. Don't overdue it. My first instruction is for you to follow the three basics for good health: eat right, get plenty of

rest, and exercise regularly. Studies indicate that those who exercise have better energy, sounder sleep, and are more resistant to the blues. In other words, drink plenty of water and take even a short a nap before an activity or event to help you dance for joy and not sing the blues.

A clinical nutritionist can recommend diet and natural supplements which can help with cravings, sleep problems, low energy and that blue feeling. Energy highs and lows in your body can also be brought under control with acupuncture treatments. As a TCM physician I experience acupuncture treatments that bring balance back into the lives of our patients. During my educational experience in Shanghai, the People's Republic of China, I learned from the Taoists who believe that moderation leads to balance and harmony.

Beyond the basics, the way I manage the holidays is by setting realistic goals. Anybody who knows me recognizes that I let Phyllis organize my time. She is much better at it than I am. Besides, I am a happy man; I know who the real boss is. Other Phyllis secrets include: making lists, prioritizing, making a budget that you actually follow, and most importantly concentrating on the things in your life you are grateful for. This may be as simple as being able to read this article.

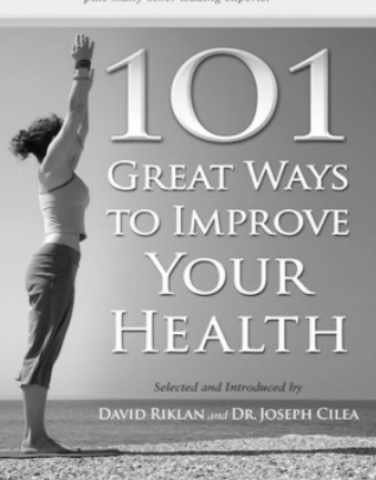
Get the Point! Write or call us for support with your holiday challenges.

Although the holidays are symbolic of "good will", "joy to the world", and family reunions; for some they may also be a time of sadness and grieving. Accept and enjoy the present moment. With planning and action you can create a holiday season full of physical, emotional and spiritual health.

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CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor having studied in Shanghai, China; a Clinical Nutritionist, a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals, the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology, specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com NEW-101 Great Ways to Improve YOUR HEALTH, 101 Expert tips to Great Health, Including a chapter by Carlos M. Viana, Aruba's Barefoot Doctor. Available NOW in Aruba or @ Healing Spirit Press www.hspress.com GIVE THE GIFT OF HEALTH THIS HOLIDAY SEASON! ☐

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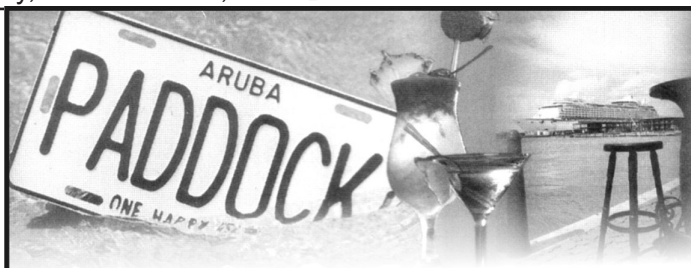
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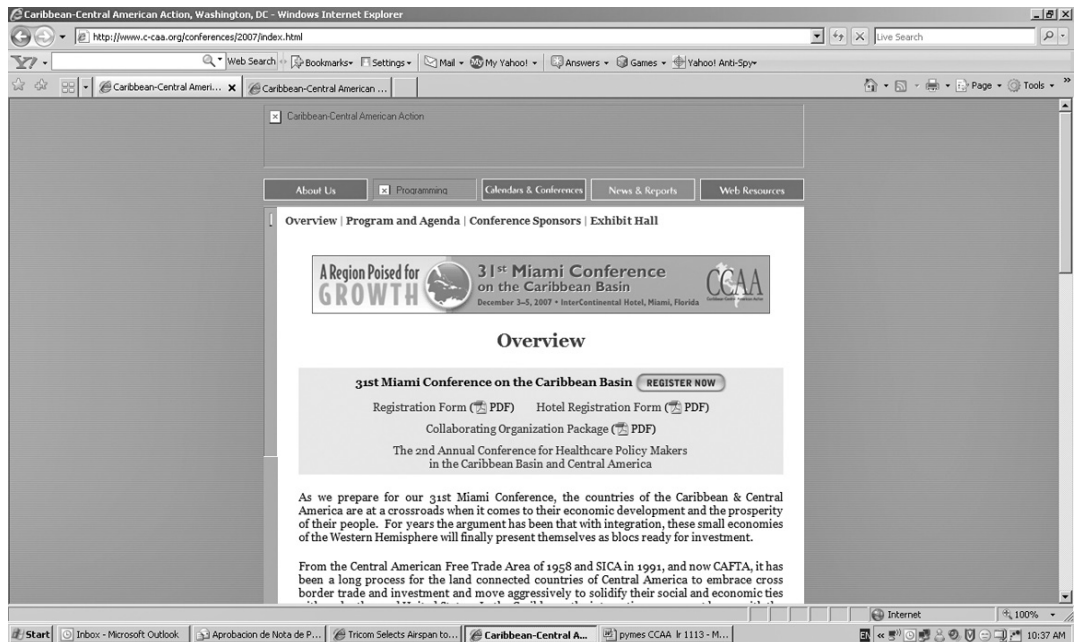
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CCAA: SMEs will drive development of Central America, Caribbean



Miami - Small and medium-sized enterprises are the engines that will drive the development of Central America and the Caribbean, according to Mr. Manuel Rosales, president of Caribbean-Central American Action (CCAA), a private, independent organization that will hold its 31st Annual Miami Conference on the Caribbean Basin from December 3-5.

"SMEs are the elements that will spur the economies of the region's countries and so we need to find a way to facilitate their insertion into the globalized markets, through access to financing and opportunities to make financial transactions, as well the training of their staff," said Rosales, who added that this will be one of the main issues discussed at this year's gathering, whose theme will be "A Region Poised For Growth."

The conference, which each year brings together regional presidents, government officials and more than 600 private and public sector participants from the Caribbean, Central America and the United States, will analyze the aspects needed both to accelerate the region's growth and articulate strategies that allow the most effective solutions to be found.

Among other topics, participants will discuss opportunities for the region following the signing of free-trade accords like DR-CAFTA and the full implementation - in January 2008 - of the CARICOM Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

In this context, Mr. Anton Edmunds, the CCAA's executive director, said it is time for governments and representatives of private sector companies in the region to employ all their will and creativity to competitively enter the globalized markets of the 21st century.

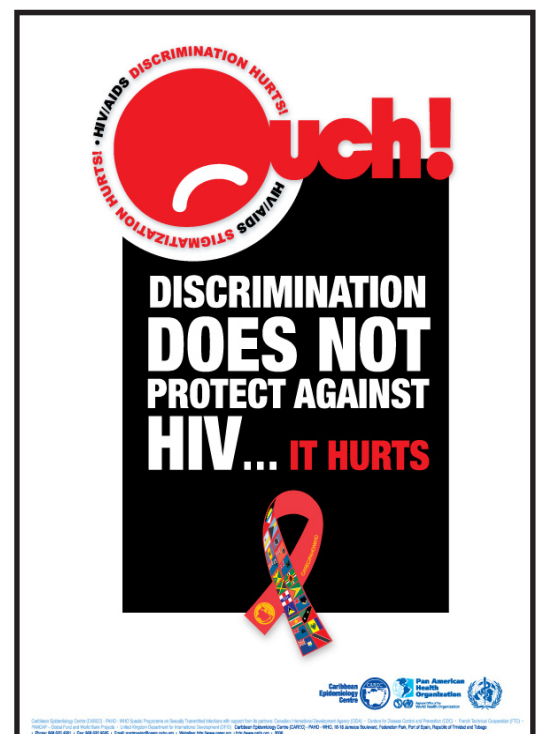
"We need to diversify the supply of products offered by the region's countries. That means sectors like call centers and clothing companies can be marketed even more, and even the traditional tourist offering that

tends to be geared toward beaches, eco-tourism and health can be broadened," the executive said.

Participants at the meeting will also analyze the negative impact of crime on the region's development, as well as the need to have reliable electricity service and use alternative fuel sources.

The list of invited speakers includes Leonel Fernandez, president of the Dominican Republic; Martin Torrijos Espino, president of Panama; John Negroponte, U.S. deputy secretary of state; Carlos Gutierrez, secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce; Dan Sullivan, assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of State; Bruce Golding, prime minister of Jamaica; Hubert Ingraham, prime minister of the Bahamas; David Emerson, Canada's minister of international trade; and Jose Miguel Insulza, secretary general of the Organization of American States.

"In holding this conference we're looking to find the answers to the region's problems and in that way be a part of the solution," Rosales said. □



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41/42	1512	1BDR	P/V	\$6,500.00
43/44	1512	1BDR	P/V	\$6,500.00

41 /42	413A	1BDR	O/V	\$4,000.00	p/w
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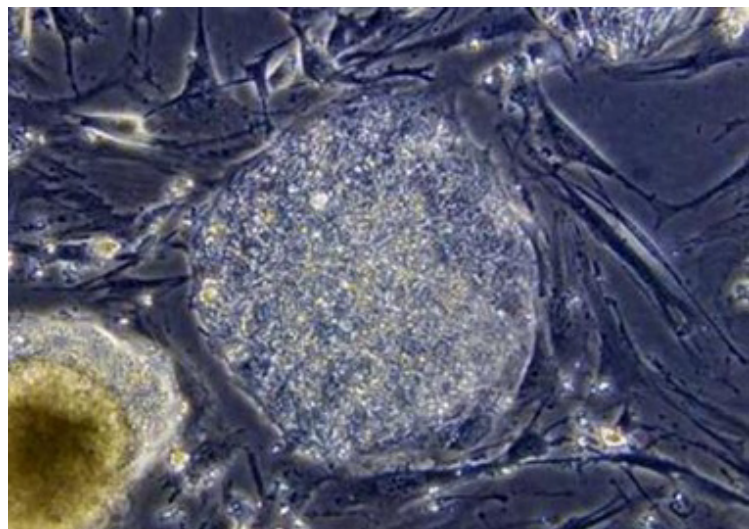
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Stem cell breakthrough uses no embryos



An undated microscopic view of undifferentiated human embryonic stem cells. Two separate teams of researchers announced on Tuesday they had transformed ordinary skin cells into batches of cells that look and act like embryonic stem cells -- but without using cloning technology and without making embryos.

(University of Wisconsin/Handout/Reuters)

By **MALCOLM RITTER**
AP Science Writer

Scientists have made ordinary human skin cells take on the chameleon-like powers of embryonic stem cells, a startling breakthrough that might someday deliver the medical payoffs of embryo cloning without the controversy. Laboratory teams on two continents report success in a pair of landmark papers released Tuesday. It's a neck-and-neck finish to a race that

made headlines five months ago, when scientists announced that the feat had been accomplished in mice. The "direct reprogramming" technique avoids the swarm of ethical, political and practical obstacles that have stymied attempts to produce human stem cells by cloning embryos. Scientists familiar with the work said scientific questions remain and that it's still important to pursue the cloning strategy, but that the new work is a major

coup. "This work represents a tremendous scientific milestone — the biological equivalent of the Wright Brothers' first airplane," said Dr. Robert Lanza, chief science officer of Advanced Cell Technology, which has been trying to extract stem cells from cloned human embryos. "It's a bit like learning how to turn lead into gold," said Lanza, while cautioning that the work is far from providing medical payoffs. "It's a huge deal," agreed Rudolf Jaenisch, a prominent stem cell scientist at the Whitehead Institute in Cambridge, Mass. "You have the proof of principle that you can do it."

The White House lauded the papers, saying such research is what President Bush was advocating when he twice vetoed legislation to pave the way for taxpayer-funded embryo research. There is a catch with the new technique. At this point, it requires disrupting the DNA of the skin cells, which creates the potential for developing cancer. So it would be unacceptable for the most touted use of embryonic cells: creating transplant tissue that in theory could be used to treat diseases like diabetes, Parkinson's, and

spinal cord injury. But the DNA disruption is just a byproduct of the technique, and experts said they believe it can be avoided. The new work is being published online by two journals, *Cell* and *Science*. The *Cell* paper is from a team led by Dr. Shinya Yamanaka of Kyoto University; the *Science* paper is from a team led by Junying Yu, working in the lab of in stem-cell pioneer James Thomson of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Both reported creating cells that behaved like stem cells in a series of lab tests. Thomson, 48, made headlines in 1998 when he announced that his team had isolated human embryonic stem cells. Yamanaka gained scientific notice in 2006 by reporting that direct reprogramming in mice had produced cells resembling embryonic stem cells, although with significant differences. In June, his group and two others announced they'd created mouse cells that were virtually indistinguishable from stem cells. For the new work, the two men chose different cell types from a tissue supplier. Yamanaka reprogrammed skin cells from the face of an unidentified 36-year-old woman, and

Thomson's team worked with foreskin cells from a newborn. Thomson, who was working his way from embryonic to fetal to adult cells, said he's still analyzing his results with adult cells. Both labs did basically the same thing. Each used viruses to ferry four genes into the skin cells. These particular genes were known to turn other genes on and off, but just how they produced cells that mimic embryonic stem cells is a mystery. "People didn't know it would be this easy," Thomson said. "Thousands of labs in the United States can do this, basically tomorrow." The Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, which holds three patents for Thomson's work, is applying for patents involving his new research, a spokeswoman said. Two of the four genes he used were different from Yamanaka's recipe. Scientists prize embryonic stem cells because they can turn into virtually any kind of cell in the body. The cloning approach — which has worked so far only in mice and monkeys — should be able to produce stem cells that genetically match the person who donates body cells for cloning. That means tissue made from the cells should be transplantable into that person without fear of rejection. Scientists emphasize that any such payoff would be well in the future, and that the more immediate medical benefits would come from basic research in the lab. In fact, many scientists say the cloning technique has proven too expensive and cumbersome in its current form to produce stem cells routinely for transplants. The new work shows that the direct reprogramming technique can also produce versatile cells that are genetically matched to a person. But it avoids several problems that have bedeviled the cloning approach. For one thing, it doesn't require a supply of unfertilized human eggs, which are hard to obtain for research and subjects the women donating them to a surgical procedure. Using eggs also raises the ethical questions of whether women should be paid for them. □



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A Sotheby's employee holds a hand-written copy of 'The Tales of Beedle the Bard' by J.K. Rowling at Sotheby's auction house in central London November 20, 2007. The volume of previously untold stories, will be auctioned on December 13 to raise money for The Children's Voice charity.

(Alessia Pierdomenico/Reuters)

Sotheby's puts new Rowling book on display

Sotheby's auctioneers displayed a rare copy of J.K. Rowling's book "The Tales of Beedle the Bard" on Tuesday, ahead of a charity auction on December 13 when the work is expected to fetch up to \$100,000.

The volume, bound in brown leather and decorated with a silver skull and moonstones, is a hand-written collection of fairytales mentioned in the Harry Potter author's last wizard saga.

Of the five wizarding fairytales, only one -- "The Tale of the Three Brothers" -- is told in "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows."

Rowling, author of the teenage wizard stories that have sold more than 350 million copies and made her the first billionaire author, has given the other six copies of the book away.

The buyer of the copy on sale will not be given copyright and reproduction will be prohibited. The proceeds will go to Rowling's children's charity. □



Anna Nicole Smith, leaves the U.S. Supreme Court, in this Feb. 28, 2006, file photo in Washington. Britney Spears and the late Anna Nicole Smith have something in common — the same attorney. Sorrell Trope, the attorney currently representing Spears in her custody battle, is suing Smith's estate for unpaid legal bills.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta, File)

Diamond reveals 'Caroline' inspiration



Singer Neil Diamond performs, Aug. 18, 2005, at Madison Square Garden in New York. Diamond held onto the secret for decades, but he has finally revealed that President Kennedy's daughter was the inspiration for his smash hit 'Sweet Caroline.'

(AP Photo/Kathy Willens)

By SANDY COHEN
AP Entertainment Writer

Neil Diamond held onto the secret for decades, but he has finally revealed that President Kennedy's daughter was the inspiration for his smash hit "Sweet Caroline."

"I've never discussed it with anybody before — intentionally," the 66-year-old singer-songwriter told The Associated Press on Monday

during a break from recording.

"I thought maybe I would tell it to Caroline when I met her someday."

He got his chance last week when he performed the song via satellite at Caroline Kennedy's 50th birthday party.

Diamond was a "young, broke songwriter" when a photo of the president's daughter in a news magazine caught his

eye.

"It was a picture of a little girl dressed to the nines in her riding gear, next to her pony," Diamond recalled. "It was such an innocent, wonderful picture, I immediately felt there was a song in there."

Years later, holed up in a hotel in Memphis, Tenn., he would write the words and music in less an hour.

"It was a No. 1 record and probably is the biggest, most important song of my career, and I have to thank her for the inspiration," he said. "I'm happy to have gotten it off my chest and to have expressed it to Caroline. I thought she might be embarrassed, but she seemed to be struck by it and really, really happy."

The enduring hit recently reappeared on the singles chart, thanks in part to the Boston Red Sox. "Sweet Caroline" is played at every home game.

"I think they consider it good luck," Diamond said, adding that the Red Sox have become his favorite baseball team.

The tune's return to the charts leaves Diamond "speechless," he said. "That song was written 40 years ago, so I am just overwhelmed by the fact that it has returned and that, more importantly, people have taken it into their hearts for so many years." □

Bahamas holds Daniel Smith death inquest

By TOSHEENA ROBINSON
Associated Press Writer

Medical personnel frantically tried to revive Anna Nicole Smith's son after he collapsed in September 2006 in the former Playboy playmate's hospital room, a doctor testified Monday at the start of a coroner's inquest.

After a "Code Blue" alert was sounded, doctors, nurses and security guards crowded into the room and found Daniel Smith unconscious, not breathing and with no pulse, said Dr. James Iferenta, the emergency room doctor on duty at the time. Iferenta said a woman, whom he later learned was Anna Nicole, was distraught and would not let go of her 20-year-old son.

"There was difficulty getting her out of the room," Iferenta said of Anna Nicole. "She clung to Smith during my time in the room."

Her attorney and partner, Howard K. Stern, who was present when Daniel Smith died,

discussed the relationship between son and mother.

"She was very close to Danny and I saw it," he testified. "Almost every time I saw Anna Nicole, she had Danny with her." Iferenta and Stern were among the first of about 35 witnesses expected to testify before a seven-member jury at an inquest to formally determine the cause death. Daniel Smith died about five months before Anna Nicole herself collapsed and died in Florida.

Police have said there is no evidence of homicide in the death of Daniel Smith. An autopsy found the likely cause was a combination of drugs, including methadone and antidepressants. The jury can recommend authorities pursue criminal charges if it finds evidence of wrongdoing.

Daniel Smith had come to the Bahamas to visit his mother after the birth of her daughter, Dannielynn. His death was the start of a celebrity soap opera that would

soon engulf the island chain, where Anna Nicole Smith lived with Stern.

Anna Nicole's death on Feb. 8 set off a fight over where to bury the former model and who would get custody of Dannielynn. She was eventually buried in the Bahamas, next to Daniel, and custody of her daughter went to former boyfriend Larry Birkhead.

On Monday, Stern described identifying Daniel Smith's body at the morgue but did not discuss in detail the events that led up to his death. The attorney general's office said Stern may be recalled as a witness for further questioning.

Stern is the executor of Anna Nicole Smith's estate and has filed papers to make Dannielynn the sole beneficiary of the estate, which has made a legal claim for millions from the oil fortune of the model's late husband, J. Howard Marshall II.

Testimony in the inquest is scheduled to resume Tuesday. □

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| Entre Nous | Sole to Sole |
| Eva Boutique | Sun Specs |
| | Taste of Belgium |

